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MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT INVESTING IN BETTER HEALTH CARE FOR SCARBOROUGH RESIDENTS

Funding Increase For Providence Healthcare Will Strengthen Programs And Services

SCARBOROUGH – The McGuinty government is continuing to invest in better health care for Scarborough residents with a $6.5 million funding increase to Providence Healthcare, Health and Long-Term Care Minister George Smitherman announced today.

"Our government is ensuring Ontario's hospitals have the resources they need to strengthen rehabilitation and complex continuing-care services," said Smitherman. "This investment will mean area residents will have improved access to quality health care."

"I am proud of our government's record of success as we continue to move forward with our health care partners," said Lorenzo Berardinetti, MPP for Scarborough Southwest. "Today's announcement is just another example of the work we are doing to allow institutions like Providence Healthcare to get on with doing the day-to-day work of providing vital health services to Ontarians."

Today's base funding increase brings Providence Healthcare's total base allocation to $53 million. Providence Healthcare, celebrating 150 years of delivering care in the community, consists of Providence Hospital, the Cardinal Ambrozic Houses of Providence, and Providence Community Centre.

The funding announced today will enable Providence to continue to provide specialized services for its patients, including people recovering from stroke, amputees requiring care following complications from diabetes or injury, and complex continuing-care patients.

"We are delighted the government is increasing funding to meet the needs of our patients," said Mohamed Dhanani, Chair of the Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network (LHIN). "Rehabilitation services have been identified as an area of focus for our 2007-2010 Integrated Health Service Plan. This investment will strengthen health care for Toronto area residents and those living outside our boundaries."

"Providence Healthcare has worked diligently over the past year to reduce costs and uncover every efficiency and revenue-generating opportunity possible. The Health Minister has recognized our hospital's unique challenges and, with this funding adjustment, ensured it can meet the health care needs of our community," said hospital President and CEO Mary Beth Montcalm. "This significant investment clearly signals this government is putting patients first."

Today's initiative is part of the McGuinty government's plan for innovation in public health care, building a system that delivers on three priorities – keeping Ontarians healthy, reducing wait times and providing better access to doctors and nurses.

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